



CLINIC POLICIES FOR SURGICAL SERVICES

Thank you for contacting CatFriends for cat spay/neuter surgery. We hope to help improve the lives of the felines in your life. The services we provide are intended to...

- **Reduce the number of community cats (free-roaming, unowned stray, feral, or abandoned cats).**
- **Reduce the impact of community cats on the environment.**
- **Improve the quality of life of community cats.**
- **Reduce the number of cats placed in and euthanized in area shelters.**

All policies are in place to insure the greatest safety for the cats while they are in our care.

Please read the following information carefully.

You must agree with and accept all of the clinic policies before bringing a cat for surgery.

Traps

Regardless of their behavior, we ONLY accept cats that ARRIVE TO THE CLINIC IN HUMANE CAT TRAPS that have been fully covered with a large towel or fabric to ease the cat's fear.

Kennels, pet carriers and cardboard or plastic "tote" boxes are NOT accepted.

CatFriends has traps available for loan.

More than one cat per trap is acceptable as long as a second, empty trap is provided to separate the cats while anesthetized and during their recovery.

Microchip

Microchipping is mandatory for all cats receiving surgery as a safety measure for the cat's benefit. At the time of surgery a microchip is implanted under the skin between the shoulder blades. CatFriends will register the microchip with local animal control with information provided by the caregiver, trapper, or presenter. It is the responsibility of the caregiver, trapper, or presenter to update contact information with the local animal control as needed.

Already Microchipped Cats

All cats are scanned for microchips. If a microchip is found, no further services are performed unless the microchip registrant is the same individual presenting the cat for surgery. We will attempt to contact the microchip registrant and inform him/her how the cat was transported to the clinic and how best to retrieve the cat.

Ear-Notching

Ear-notching is mandatory for ALL cats receiving surgery as a safety measure for the cat's benefit. A "V" shaped notch is cut from one ear-tip in order to visibly identify an altered, free-roaming cat. The left ear is notched on male cats, the right ear is notched on female cats. This helps to avoid future transport, stress and anesthesia. Kittens are ear-notched proportionally less than adults.

Tattoo

Tattooing is mandatory for all cats receiving surgery as a safety measure for the cat's benefit. An approximately 1/2 inch green line is tattooed adjacent to the cat's surgical incision at the time of surgery. The tattoo is permanent and acts as an indicator of the sterilization status of the cat thus preventing unnecessary surgery later in life.



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Minimum Weight

Two pounds is the minimum weight for surgery. Kittens weighing less than two pounds will be returned without being sedated or sterilized.

Medical Problems

We do not provide routine veterinary care other than spay/neuter. Medical issues observed by the veterinary staff are noted and the information is passed on to the caregiver/trapper/presenter. Problems such as minor wounds may be treated, but this is not guaranteed. We do not dispense nor prescribe medications or vaccinations. We may refer you to your regular veterinarian if further care is indicated. On occasion and if circumstance allows, extra surgery may be provided to improve the quality of life of a cat. The caregiver/trapper/presenter will be contacted prior to additional services being performed - these services will be at the expense of the caregiver/trapper/presenter.

Euthanasia

On rare occasions, euthanasia of a cat is recommended due to health reasons. If the examining veterinarian believes a cat is suffering, determines that a cat is in very poor health, or believes that it is inhumane to return the cat to a free-roaming lifestyle, it may have to be humanely euthanized. In the event of this occurrence, every attempt to contact the registered caregiver, trapper, or presenter will be made before euthanizing the cat in order to acquire informed consent or in the event that the trapper/caregiver wishes to take the cat to a private veterinarian for further assessment and treatment. If this is not possible, and our veterinarian deems the cat as acutely suffering, euthanasia will be performed without consent.

We strive to make accurate and humane assessments, but choices are not always clear. If we have questions or need further

information to assist in making a decision, we will call the contact listed on the Surgical Release Form.

We do NOT euthanize any cat that appears to be in good health.

Routine Veterinary Care

We do not provide test kits or perform onsite testing for feline leukemia (FeLV) or feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). We do not provide or administer vaccinations. We do not provide or administer dewormers or flea prevention. Cats should be seen by a private veterinarian for routine veterinary care.

Surgical Release Forms and Microchip Registration Forms

These forms must be completed legibly and signed prior to surgery. Incomplete or illegible paperwork will result in refusal of services and cats being returned unaltered. Please read the documents thoroughly and print legibly.

Post-Surgical Care

Post-surgical care instructions are provided upon discharge of cats on the day of surgery and are also available on our website.

ALL CATS MUST BE RELEASED TO THE SAME LOCATION FROM WHERE THEY WERE TRAPPED. Relocating community cats to a new location can cause them to become disoriented and lost. This poses a HUGE risk to their safety and can be fatal. IT IS ALSO AGAINST THE LAW TO RELOCATE CATS!

Right to Refuse Services

We reserve the right to refuse services to any person who engages in any inappropriate treatment of cats, medical staff, volunteers, Board members, other clients, co-animal welfare organizations or property.

Revised 08/2019